

# Grow Your Own Orchids

In Your  
Home  
or  
Patio



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U. S. Department of Agriculture

On Your  
Porch  
or  
Trees

## ORCHIDS ARE FASCINATING HOBBY; NEVER TOO OLD TO GROW ONE

Alarmed, when you hear that it takes from five to seven years to grow an orchid from seed? Don't be, as they say the first seven years are the hardest. When an orchid blooms for the first time you will get the thrill of your life. Under good care the plant will continue to thrive and bear flowers each year thereafter.

Orchid growing is a fascinating hobby which rejuvenates the old-timers to the point that they desire to grow more and more plants each passing year. You can well imagine our thrill when we saw our seedling blooming for the first time. We were not disappointed for if we were we would not be growing thousands of orchids today. We know it was a thrill to us and can well imagine it will be even more so for you.

One is never too old to grow an orchid. We have them available from seed to flowering size. It only requires a little patience till you get your first flower and you know that patience can be a virtue well rewarded with old age. We know some enthusiasts who now have plants they raised from seed or as small seedlings, who thought they would be pushing up daisies by now but instead they are growing many orchids.

The man of the house sometimes has difficult days at the office and needs diversion of some sort when he gets home. Wifely also has had her days at home and on nights like this it's best to get away from it all, so why not get in your slat house or patio to work with your favorite plants, the orchids? After enjoying a few hours with your orchids, the wife can pin her favorite flower on her dress and hubby will probably offer an invitation to dine out that evening.

Junior likes to get into the act, too, as one is never too young to get started growing orchids. So when those weeds start growing in the pot his small hand will get into the pot very easily to pull them out. All youngsters like to break things up, so if you are in the need of some crocks for the bottom of your pots, give him a hammer and tell him to have fun. However, be sure you show him which pots to break up. Pots should be cleaned occasionally and we know the dish washer is not the place to put them. A small scrubbing brush and Junior can do the job very well.

All in all it's fun to grow orchids. Their intrinsic beauty is unequalled in the flower world as they are the aristocrat of all flowers.

## ORCHID NOTES from

**R. H. GORE - Orchids**  
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## MANY VARIETIES TO CHOOSE FROM

**Cattleyas**—are the conventional favorites and are used in the flower shops for making corsages. Although the lavender-colored flower is popular, the odd colors such as yellow, bronze, lemon, red, pink and pastel shades are increasing in popularity each year.

**Phalaenopsis** — are very good types to grow in the home. They are warm growing types and do not require as much light as the others. The long stems of small white or pink flowers are very attractive and last in bloom, longer than most other orchids. They require more water at the roots than other types but do not like a chill. They grow well on trees here in Florida and do very well in homes in the North.

**Dendrobiums**—are perhaps the easiest of all orchids to grow. They have small pink or white flowers. Some types have short bulbs that flower in clusters. Other varieties last several weeks and bloom on longer stems.

**Vandas**—present some of the interesting colors in the orchid world, producing the only blue bloom. A deep to light blue flower produced on medium sized stems offers an interesting plant. Their culture is not difficult. They require freedom in the rooting area, and growing them in charcoal and small amounts of osmunda with a feeding of stable manure is beneficial.

**Botanicals**—There are thousands of botanical varieties of orchids and each has its own charm. The yellow oncidium, which looks like a butterfly, is especially outstanding. The bronze and green cypripediums are related to the lady slipper. The heavy waxy flowers last for several weeks in bloom and can be grown quite easily.

Orchids can be obtained in most any color range desired. Some are led to believe that there is a black orchid. It is more brown than black. To date we have never seen the real black orchid other than a flower that has been dyed.

No matter which type you select to grow, each one will have its own fascinating characteristic which will give you years of enjoyment. Remember, the orchid is the jewel of the flower world.

## ORCHID QUERIES

**Q. Are orchids expensive?**

**A. We have varieties that sell from \$3.50 up. Orchids will increase by division and you will be able to grow many plants from the original purchase. No, orchids are not expensive.**

**Q. Why do leaves turn yellow on orchids?**

**A. Too much water after potting, and cool weather, are the main causes for leaves to turn yellow and fall from the plant. When you move plants from the shade into too much light it will also cause the yellowing of leaves.**

**Q. Do orchids require feeding?**

**A. When grown in osmunda, orchids do not require feeding. For many years they were grown in osmunda and given only water. Recently experiments have taken place and some indication shows that seedlings will benefit from feeding. Feeding seedlings every other week, is beneficial. Adult plants show some results from regular monthly feedings. By all means do not over feed.**

**Q. How much sun should I give my orchids?**

**A. Give your plants, except Phalaenopsis and Cypripediums, as much light as possible without burning the leaves. Plants that have a weak root system will require some shade. Lush green leaves is an indication of too much shade. Leaves that are a light green will flower better.**

**Q. Do insects attack orchid plants?**

**A. Like all other plants orchids are subject to insects. Scale and mealy bugs are often found on the leaves and under the skin of the bulbs. Thrip and red spider will also attack the plants. Nicotine, DDT, and Parathion are insecticides that can be used on orchids. Use care when handling Parathion as this is also poisonous to humans.**

**Q. What temperature should I keep my room for good orchid culture?**

**A. Temperatures should vary according to the variety you grow. Should the temperature drop to 50 or lower, then keep your plant on the dry side. Phalaenopsis like it warm with no water on the leaves during a cold spell. Orchids growing out of doors can withstand temperatures down to 35 in Florida, but they have to be on the dry side. Their growth will be checked for a while during the cooler weather, but will continue on in the spring.**

**Q. How much water will my plant require?**

**A. Most plants that are grown indoors will need about a cup of water once a week in the pot. Those that have old osmunda will need more water as the moisture will evaporate faster. Those grown outside will need about twice as much water as those grown indoors. A dish filled with small stones and about one inch of water, placed under pots, will afford the plant some moisture. Spray the leaves with water twice each day.**

**Q. When should I pot my orchids?**

**A. When the osmunda is very soft or when the plant has reached the edge of the pot. Do not overpot your plants. It is better to underpot than overpot. Roots hanging over the edge of the pot is natural as these roots are only seeking food. Repot when possible after your plant has finished blooming.**

# Orchids You Can Grow

## VANDAS

No.	Cross	Color	Price
88	V. Suavis x V. Frank Scudder	Variable	\$ 8.00 to \$10.00
103	V. Clara S. Fisher x V. Emily Notley	Reddish-Brown	\$ 8.00 to \$10.00
107	V. Walter Dillingham	Grey-Blue	\$ 8.00 to \$10.00
	Vanda Roxburghii	Buff	\$ 3.50 to \$10.00
	Vanda Coerulea	Blue	\$ 3.50 up

## PHALAEENOPSIS

152	Phal. Avalanche x Phal. Rimestadiana Var. Helvetia	White	\$ 5.00 to \$20.00
200	Phal. Venustus x Phal. Elizabethiae	White	\$ 5.00 to \$20.00
257	Phal. La Belle (Phal. Marmouset x Phal. Schilleriana)	Pink	\$ 5.00 to \$20.00
367	Phal. Florence Gunter (Phal. Katherine Siegwart x Phal. Rimestadiana)	White	\$ 5.00 to \$20.00
387	Phal. Karen (Phal. Doris x Phal. Avalanche)	White	\$20.00 up
153	Phal. Bobby Boy	White	Large Plants \$30.00

## CYPRIPEDIUMS

	Cyp. Maudiae — Bankhouse var.	Green	\$10.00 to \$15.00
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## CATTLEYAS

9	Lc Epoch	Lav.	\$18.00 to \$25.00
10	C Marie Webb	W C/L	\$ 5.00 to \$10.00
44	C Martha	White	\$ 5.00 to \$10.00
53	Bc Jubilee	Variable	\$18.00 to \$25.00
109	C Helene Williams	White	\$18.00 to \$25.00
111	C Pearl	White	\$18.00 to \$25.00
133	Lc Robert Doig	Lav.	\$25.00 to \$50.00

## SEEDLINGS

In 2½ inch pots

		Color		
170	C Bahia Mar (C Crepuscule x C Amabilis)	Dk. Lav.	June	\$ 2.00
197	Lc Masterpiece (C Leda x Lc South Esk)	Lav.	Feb.	\$ 2.50
255	Lc Jane Froman (C Alwynii x Lc Hassallii Alba Cowan's var.)	W C/L	Dec.	\$ 3.00
260	C Tabebuia (C Suavis x C Rita Sladden)	Var.	April	\$ 2.00
268	C Twinkle (C Empress Frederick x Lc Avignon)	Dk. Lav.	May	\$ 2.50
271	Lc Colonel (Lc Avignon x C Amabilis)	Dk. Lav.	May	\$ 2.50
272	C Connoisseur (C Labiata Alba var. Prince of Wales x C Eleanore Alba)	W C/L	June	\$ 2.50
354	(Ble Nigeria x C Winnietha)	Pink	Jan.	\$ 2.50

## BOTANICAL ORCHIDS

	Color	
Epidendrum Atropurpureum	Purple	Spring \$3.50 up
Oncidium Kramerianum (Butterfly)	Orange	Var. \$5.00 up
Brassavola Nodosa (Lady of the Night)	White	Var. \$1.50 up
Dendrobium Aggregatum (Golden Shower)	Yellow	Spring \$5.00 up
C Guttata	Bronze	Spring \$7.50 up
C Guttata var. Leopoldii	Bronze	Spring 10.00 up
Sophranitis Grandiflora	Red	Spring \$5.00 up
Cynoches Chlorochilon (Swan)	Chartreuse	Fall \$5.00 up

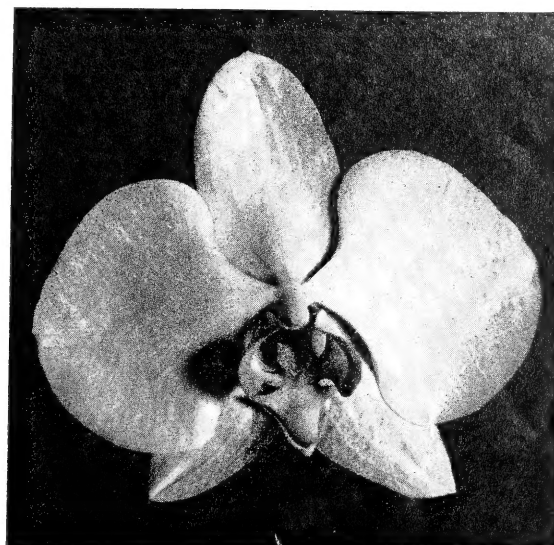
and many other interesting varieties

**When You Buy A "GORE" Orchid  
You Buy The Best Obtainable**

# Breeders Of The World's Finest Orchid Seed



*Vanda*



*Phalaenopsis*

## ORCHID BUGS BITE HUMANS, TOO

The orchid bugs will get you if you don't watch out. Sometimes its bite will not be noticed for a while, but more often than not it will bite with a bang.

The orchid bug gets around, too, as it is found all over the United States and in many foreign countries. It not only selects female members of the family but will also cause the male of the household to sit up and take notice once he gets bitten.

The orchid bug is peculiar in its actions. It soars around for a while looking for a likely prospect, then after making up its mind it sets its jet-propelled wings into action and before you know it you've been bitten.

Don't worry, its bite is not fatal. One of our customers got bitten at the orchid house and went all the way home to New Mexico before she knew she had the bite. She remarked the bug must have followed her home because her husband got bit, too.

Thousands of people have been bitten by the orchid bug at our greenhouses, and they say it's a glorious feeling.



*Container for Home Grown Orchids*

## CORSAGE FLOWERS REVIVED OVERNIGHT

An Orchid corsage will last for several days and frequently weeks, if properly cared for.

Wearing orchid corsages in the middle of the day where the flowers are exposed to the strong sun rays and high temperatures, will cause them to drop. They can be revived however, to be worn again.

Place your flower in a glass vial in the refrigerator, making certain the lower portion of the stem is in water. The lower portion of the stem should be cut to allow absorption of water up the stem. If your flower is floppy, then lay the flower on some shredded paper and place the stem in a shallow dish.

## MOISTURE REQUIRED FOR BEST RESULTS

The first rule to remember about growing orchids is that they do not like wet feet all the time. It is far better to give them too little water than too much. Orchids generally have a pseudo bulb where food is stored. When the storage space is filled to capacity they no longer require more food until some of it has been utilized.

Orchids like to have a bath and need water on the foliage more often than in the pot. In the jungles where orchids are found growing, the humidity is quite high and the temperatures vary as to the locality in which they grow. Give your plant only enough water to keep the bulbs from shriveling. Should the leaves become soft and the bulbs thin, then give them some water at the roots.

Newly potted orchids do not require as much water as older potted plants because the new osmunda will not dry out as fast, and the plant will have to make new roots. A general rule to follow would be to water in the pot about once every week and wet the leaves twice each day. Plants in the home require less water in the pots as indoor culture will not produce airy conditions. Yellow leaves are an indication of too much water or cool temperatures.



*Flask*



*Seed Pod*

# R. H. GORE ORCHIDS

## ORCHID SEED SOWN IN FLASKS— KEPT IN CONTAINER ONE YEAR

Sowing orchid seed is very different from sowing tomato or other garden seed. The seed, being tiny, will become lost at the bottom of a pot as it will wash down in the soil when watered. Special care has to be given orchid seed when it is sown in order to protect the tiny particles. An insect could easily carry seed from the pot merely by having it adhere to its body. Unless one is familiar with seed sowing technique, then it should not be attempted.

Special equipment is necessary to germinate orchid seed and special formulas have to be prepared for seed sowing.

Seed is sown in flasks containing agar-agar, a jelly-like substance on which the seed grows. The jelly formula in the flask has to be kept sterile or mold will grow on the agar instead of seedlings. Mold will germinate in the flasks as fast, if not faster, than mold on bread.

The tiny seed is inserted into the flask and spread over the surface of the agar. A small pipette scatters the seed over the agar until an even spread is maintained.

Seed will show signs of germination within a few days but the long struggle has only begun. Even though the seed will show sign of germination within a few days, the small plants generally stay in the flasks for a period of from 10 to 12 months.

Some seed is hard to sow evenly in the flasks and has to be reset in other flasks. Transferring seedlings from bottle to bottle is also done under sterile conditions. Root growth begins to start when the seedlings are in the flask about two to three months. Small leaves have developed by this time, and when the seedlings are four months old they can be transferred to other flasks.

The small plants are removed from the flask with a small wire loop and then placed in community pots. Community pots are small, three-inch pots containing about 25 seedlings.

From the time the plants are removed from flasks to flowering, covers a period of from four to five years. Some strong-growing plants often bloom in two to three years from the flask but this does not occur with the majority of orchids, other than in a few of the early-blooming types, such as phalaenopsis and dendrobiums.

## HOW TO GET TO OUR RANGE

